

**ERWIN BRIDGE FISHING ACCESS SITE
INITIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
DECISION NOTICE**

**Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks
Region Three, Bozeman
March 2007**

Proposed Action

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposes to develop the Erwin Bridge Fishing Access Site (FAS) located on the West Gallatin River southwest of Belgrade, Montana, on Amsterdam Road. The proposed project would build a short section of access road; construct a ten-car parking lot around a cul-de-sac with a center island; install a latrine, barrier rocks and signing; and construct a five-foot wide trail to the river if funding allows. This proposed project is being prompted by a pending (Spring 2007) Montana Department of Transportation project on Amsterdam Road which will install guardrail and a new approach to the Erwin Bridge site. The new approach will safely allow the public to enter the site and provide the means to build a connecting access road and parking lot off of Amsterdam Road.

Montana Environmental Policy Act

Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks is required by the Montana Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) to assess significant potential impacts of a proposed action to the human and physical environment. In compliance with MEPA, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was completed for the proposed project by FWP and released for public comment on February 16, 2007.

Public comments on the proposed project were taken for 30 days (through March 16, 2007). The EA was mailed to 27 individuals and groups; legal notices were printed in the *Bozeman Daily Chronicle*, and the *Helena Independent Record*; and the Draft EA was posted on the FWP webpage: <http://fwp.mt.gov/publicnotices/>

Summary of Public Comment

There were no comments received on the proposed project.

**Final Environmental Assessment for the Erwin Bridge Fishing Access Site
Development Proposal**

There are no modifications necessary to the Draft Environmental Assessment based on public comment. The Draft Environmental Assessment, together with this Decision Notice, will serve as the final document for this proposal.

Decision

Based on the Environmental Assessment, public comment, and the need for providing access, parking and other facilities at Erwin Bridge Fishing Access Site, it is my decision to proceed with the development project.

I find there to be no significant impacts on the human and physical environments associated with this project, other than the expansion of this facility and the increased accommodation of the recreating public. Therefore, I conclude that the Environmental Assessment is the appropriate level of analysis, and that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Patrick J. Flowers
Region Three Supervisor
